



People First: Building a community, together.

from Mayor Kenneth Cooper Alexander:

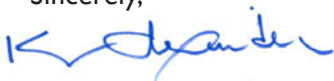
Dear Friends:

During the months of September and October 2017, more than 400 of your neighbors from Calvert Square, Tidewater Gardens and Young Terrace attended a series of community meetings to share ideas, hopes and concerns about the potential redevelopment of the St. Paul's area. I hope that all who attended enjoyed the small group discussions, and that you felt you had the opportunity to share openly and honestly.

The input you provided was recorded and used to prepare this report. Inside, you will find a summary of the key themes that emerged from the residents, business owners and other stakeholders who participated in the meetings. This information will be used by the City and Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority as a resource to help shape the decisions to be made in the coming months about the future of the area.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on how we can work together to improve the quality of housing, education and health of our neighborhoods. I look forward to working with you to revitalize an important part of Norfolk.

Sincerely,



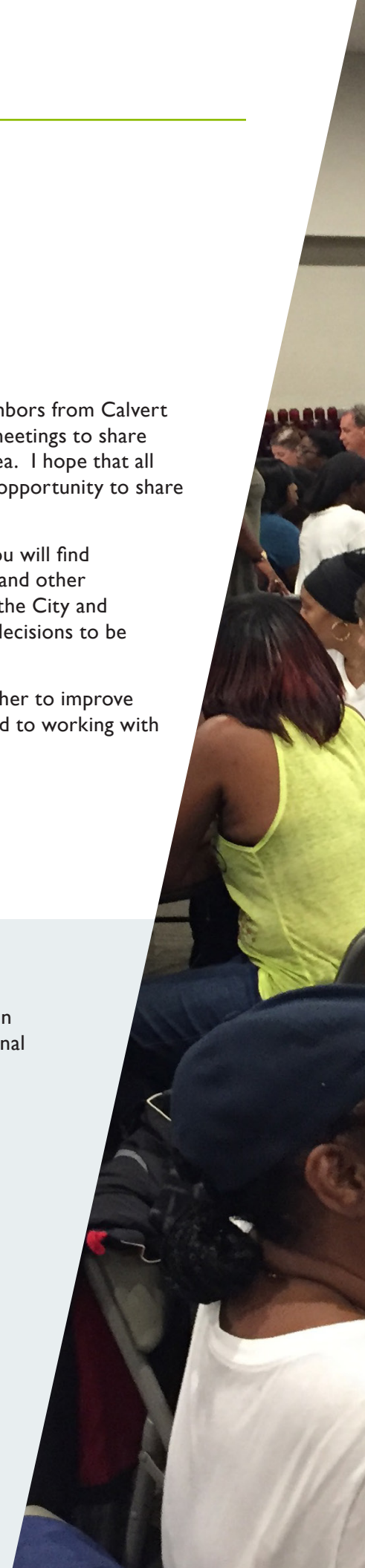
Kenneth Cooper Alexander
Mayor

Summary of Community Workshops

Workshops were held at Tidewater Gardens, Young Terrace and Calvert Square in the morning and evening in August and September. Mayor Alexander sent a personal invitation to all 1,680 homes in the three neighborhoods.

The nine sessions were:

- + Tidewater Gardens: August 8, 2017 – Basilica of St. Mary's
- + Young Terrace: August 12, 2017 – Young Terrace Community Center
- + Calvert Square: August 15, 2017 – United House of Prayer
- + Tidewater Gardens: August 19, 2017 – Basilica of St. Mary's
- + Young Terrace: August 24, 2017 – Young Terrace Community Center
- + Calvert Square: September 9 – Calvert Square Family Investment Center
- + Pastor's Roundtable: September 21 – First Baptist Bute Street
- + Tenant Management Council Representative Meeting: September 10, 2017 – Calvert Square Family Investment Center
- + Business Stakeholder Meeting: September 17, 2017 – Attucks Theater
- + Resident Forum: October 21, 2017 – Ruffner Middle School





At the first meeting in each neighborhood, city staff worked with the residents to collect their vision and dreams for their neighborhood. Staff also found out how residents want to receive information about the project.

Each resident work group was asked the following three questions:

- ➊ **What constitutes a safe, healthy neighborhood for you and your family?**
- ➋ **What assets and features do you need and want in your neighborhood?**
- ➌ **What kind of information do you want going forward, and how do you want to receive that information?**



ideas & projects

At the second round of neighborhood meetings, residents provided additional requests such as a day care center, senior center and computer labs. Residents also had a chance to review the input they gave at the first meeting and list those in order of importance. The picture above shows the post-it notes. The picture below shows the input collected at the first meeting.

Key Themes from Resident Meetings:

Crime and Safety

Crime and safety are top priorities. Many residents reported feeling unsafe leaving their homes at night or allowing their children to play outside. Gun violence and drugs are the top two issues.

Residents asked for more police presence and enforcement, better lighting and security cameras and neighborhood watch groups, curfews and removing negative influences.

Examples of resident comments:

- + “Elementary and young kids should not be afraid in their neighborhood”
- + “We want to walk around our community without fear”
- + “Police need to walk around the neighborhood and not just drive through it”
- + “It feels like it’s impossible to get the drugs out”
- + “We want a gated community so we can control and monitor who is coming in and out of the neighborhood”



Housing, Education and Health Opportunities

Better housing is a high priority for residents. Many residents reported their current home is too small without enough bedrooms for the size of their family. New homes should be big enough for the size of the family and free of mold.

Residents want a diverse neighborhood. Multi-ethnic and different income levels will help children prepare for the workforce and improve educational opportunities. Better schools, more childcare programs that allow parents to work are important. There is also a desire to create stronger relationships between the school system, NRHA and parents.

Examples of resident comments:

- + “My children shouldn’t have to go to school with only other poor, black children. When you go to work, you have to know how to work with people of all races. I want a mixed income community. Diversity gives us a better chance.”
- + “Want modernized, well-designed communities and apartments”
- + “We need better schools so our kids can reach their full potential”
- + “We deserve all good things – housing with great amenities”
- + “I want wide sidewalks, trees and neighborhoods that look like a neighborhood. Nobody wants to live in a concrete jungle”



Key Themes from Resident Meetings:

Trash, Traffic and Flooding

Residents worry about flooding and its impact on their neighborhoods. Much of Tidewater and Calvert flood during a heavy rain and make it difficult for residents to travel the neighborhood. In fact, one of the community meetings had to be rescheduled because of heavy rain.

Residents also want better trash removal and building designs and ways to control speeding in the neighborhood. In short, residents want modern infrastructure in their neighborhoods.

Examples of resident comments:

- + “We need assistance with flooding”
- + “Students miss classes as a result of flooding and the parents have to miss work to watch their children too often”
- + “Street configuration that would control speed limits (large speed bumps that would require you to slow down)”
- + “Want modernized, well-designed communities and apartments”
- + “Build a walkable community with community gardens and safe places to play”
- + “Get back to the good neighbor concept – you look out for me, I look out for you”



Recreation, Shopping and Things to Do

Residents want a more vibrant neighborhood. People want to see more open space, a new high quality grocery store, a pharmacy, a bank, a dance studio, programming for youth, and expanded shopping. Residents want walkable neighborhoods with open space for neighbors to come together. They also want diverse neighborhoods in careers and income.

Examples of resident comments:

- + “Want an affordable pharmacy and a quality grocery store – the same thing you want in your neighborhood”
- + “Community Center closes too early at 5 pm, there is no place for the kids”
- + “We don’t have a place for recreation – need a recreation center with sports/ ball fields”
- + “More programs for kids. Comprehensive programs and experiences that teach life skills and provide mentoring”



Key Themes from Resident Meetings:

Access to Resources

Residents want services targeted to their needs. Services that help them succeed and give their children a better future.

Other services include: mental health and substance abuse programs, resources for the elderly, help finding quality housing and maintaining housing. Residents also want help with job training, budgeting and job training programs that lead to good pay.

Examples of resident comments:

- + “Schools/education centers for parents/adults where they can receive a GED, enroll in training programs, apprenticeships and receive technical certifications”
- + “Financial counseling - Need programs to teach us how to pay their bills if they leave public housing”
- + “Access to transitional services – moving coaches – don’t want people to fall through the cracks”
- + “Need better access to jobs and job training”



Transparency

Residents are concerned about moving. Some residents have doubts about the planning process. They believe the City and NRHA already have a plan and the meetings don’t matter. Other residents are concerned they won’t be able to return because the new homes will be too expensive. The redevelopment of Ghent was an example.

Examples of resident comments:

- + “Meetings before decisions are made will help me sleep tonight”
- + “Keep transparency going – we’re adults – tell us”
- + “Be honest – tell the truth. Don’t pacify us”
- + “Continue the public discussions and personal letters. I don’t like reading in the newspaper about things going on in my neighborhood that the city knew about”



Key Themes from Business Leader Meeting:

Crime, Flooding, Dining, Culture

Business partners shared many of the same concerns about crime and flooding as residents. Many like more retail and quality restaurants. In addition, business partners want the cultural history of the area saved.

Summary of business partner comments:

- + “We want quality retail and restaurants within walking distance of key destinations, like Attucks Theater”
- + “Connect residents who received job training with local businesses who need skilled workers”





Next Steps: People First in 2017

- + Upgrade lighting in Tidewater Gardens and Calvert Square
- + Non-traditional Community Engagement and Safety Initiatives
- + Improving relationships with Police
- + Support youth programming through local schools and organizations

People First in 2018 and Beyond

- + Human Development Services
 - + Individual meetings with every resident in the communities to understand needs and desires
 - + Individualized Case Management to build the capacity of residents to be successful in their housing choices
- + Resident Advisory Committees – to help shape how the community moves forward with the revitalization process
- + Free Classes will be offered on topics such as:
 - + Finances
 - + Employment
 - + Education
 - + Housing care
 - + Youth Workshops
- + Review report with City Council on November 14, 2017 to determine a path forward

Norfolk City Council

Kenneth Cooper Alexander, Mayor

Martin A. Thomas, Jr., Ward 1

Theresa W. Whibley, Vice Mayor/Ward 2

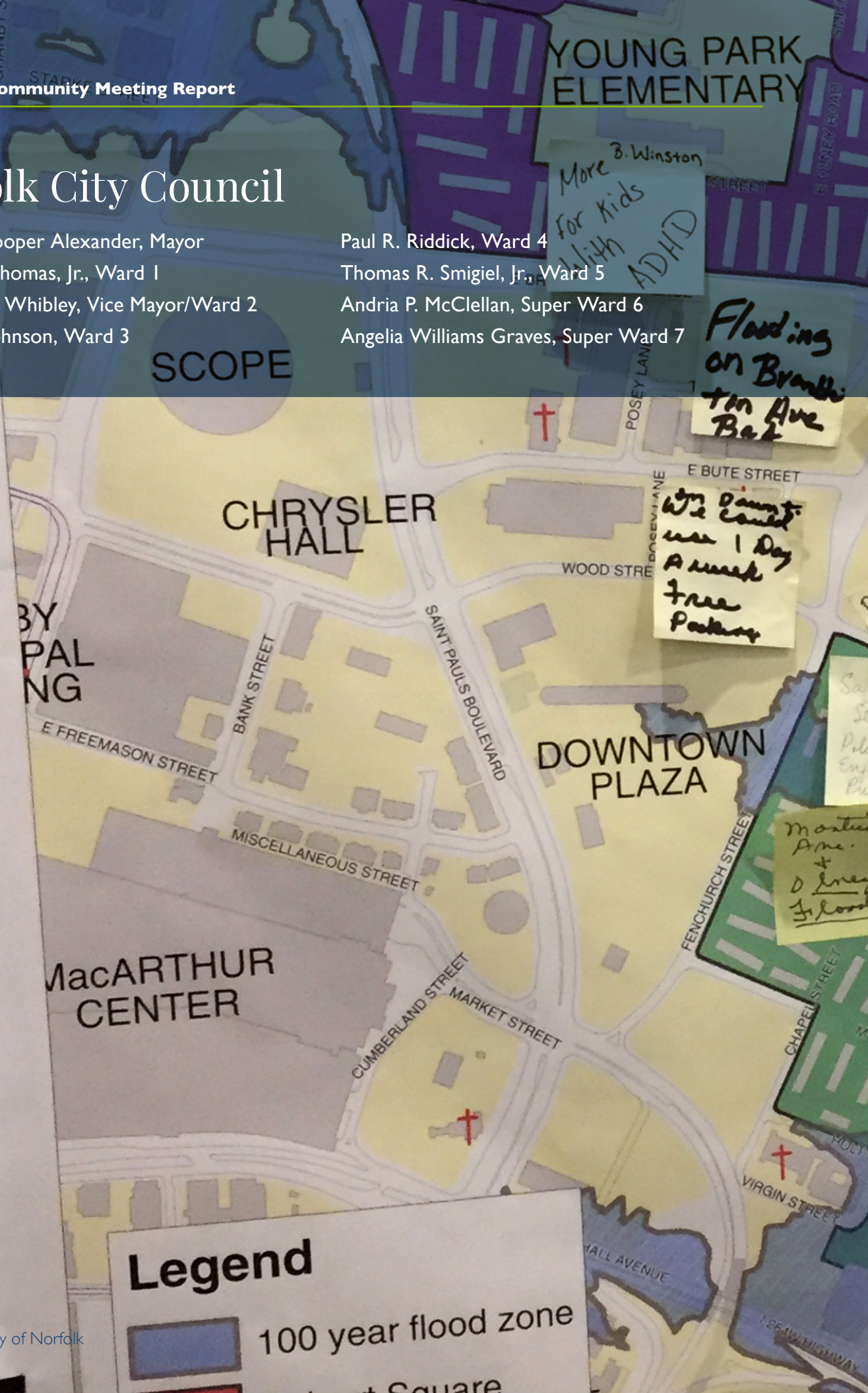
Mamie B. Johnson, Ward 3

Paul R. Riddick, Ward 4

Thomas R. Smigiel, Jr., Ward 5

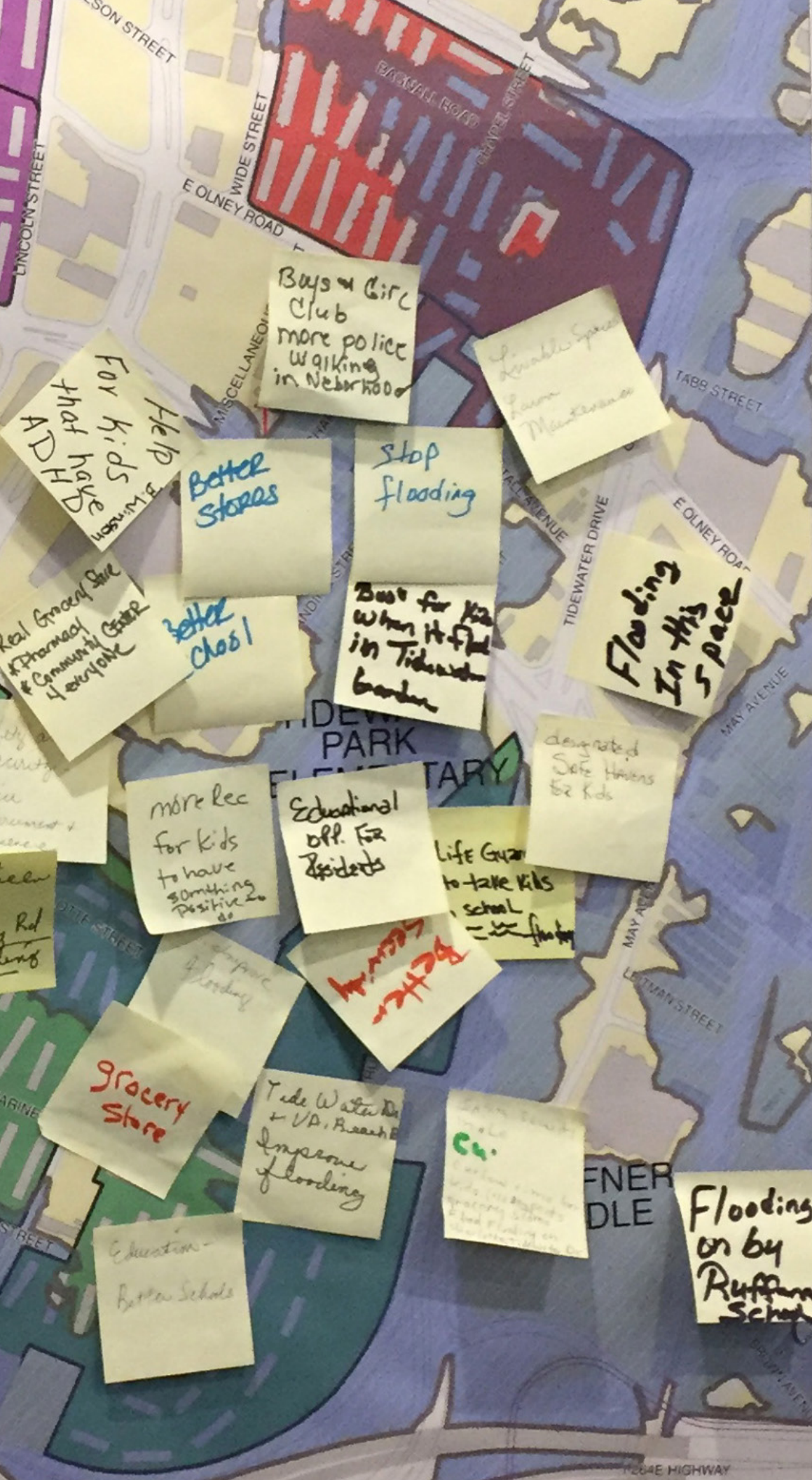
Andria P. McClellan, Super Ward 6

Angelia Williams Graves, Super Ward 7



Legend

100 year flood zone
St. Paul's Square



St. Paul's Community Meeting Report

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